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**STATE OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
MEDIA RELEASE**

**DPS NAMES NEW DEPUTY COMMISSIONER**

Montpelier, VT – Department of Public Service Commissioner David O'Brien today announced the appointment of Richard Smith as Deputy Commissioner of DPS. Smith, who has served more than ten years in Vermont state government, brings a strong knowledge of government, as well as energy and economic issues, according to O'Brien.

"Rich is a dedicated public servant who brings a wealth of experience to the department," said O'Brien. "His knowledge and expertise will allow the department to move forward seamlessly on the many complex issues we have before us," he said.

As Deputy Commissioner, Smith will work closely with the Commissioner on implementation of DPS goals, oversee DPS administrative operations and human resources, and play a key role in legislative affairs.

Most recently, Smith was the Deputy Commissioner at the Vermont Department of Economic Development. Before joining that department, Smith was a Policy Analyst in the Office of the Governor during the Dean administration, where he served as primary liaison to the Governor for a wide variety of issues including economic development, transportation, telecommunications, energy and agriculture.

Smith previously served in the roles of deputy clerk for the US Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, and Deputy Field Director for a successful statewide US Senate campaign in Massachusetts.

Smith holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He is a graduate of the public leadership program of the Governors' Center at Duke University and of the Vermont Leadership Institute of the Snelling Institute for Government.

Smith replaces John Sayles, who is the new policy director at the Agency of Natural Resources.

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